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REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-19, 21-24 and 26-28 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 6, 15, 20 and 25 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 10, 19 and 24 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Angebranndt to Applicants' representative during the personal interview conducted December 18. The substance of the interview is summarized in the following remarks.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted, PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Ву:_____

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December _____, 2003

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